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Peacebuilding Commission

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Letter dated 4 June 2007 from the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission to the members of the Organizational Committee

The Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005), presents his compliments to the members of the Organizational Committee of the Commission and has the honour to transmit for their consideration a letter dated 30 April 2007 from the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, in which he requests that the Commonwealth become a member of the Commission's country-specific meetings on Sierra Leone (see annex). The letter highlights the fact that the work of the Commonwealth in Sierra Leone since 1961 has focused on the promotion and protection of the culture and institutions of democracy and on sustainable development as aligned to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Chairperson wishes to advise that, unless he receives indication to the contrary by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, 5 June 2007, he will take it that the members of the Organizational Committee have no objection to the request contained in the letter from the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. Should the Committee have no objection, the Commonwealth will be invited to participate in the Commission's upcoming country-specific meetings on Sierra Leone under paragraph 7 (e) of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005).

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Annex

Letter dated 30 April 2007 from the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth to the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission

I have appreciated our correspondence concerning Sierra Leone, where there is evidently scope for collaboration between the Commonwealth and the United Nations.

Sierra Leone has been a valued member of the Commonwealth since it joined our organization in 1961 upon attaining independence. Since then, our work in that country has focused on the Commonwealth's two principal pillars of activity — our promotion and protection of the culture and institutions of democracy, and our commitment to sustainable development as aligned in more recent times to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Commonwealth has a standing invitation to participate in the work and sessions of the General Assembly, and therefore looks forward to attending public meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission in future.

In addition, with specific reference to the potential for synergy and coordination of the work of the United Nations and the Commonwealth in Sierra Leone, and also mindful of Security Council resolution 1645 and General Assembly resolution 60/180, I propose and request that the Commonwealth become a member of the Commission's country-specific configuration on Sierra Leone. I am pleased to note that this proposal enjoys the warm endorsement of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and his Government.

(*Signed*) Don **McKinnon**